

# Indiana House of Representatives

## News and Information

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### **HOY WILL FIGHT TO KEEP NEWBURGH LICENSE BRANCH OPEN**

INDIANAPOLIS – State Rep. Phil Hoy (D-Evansville) today encouraged area residents to help him fight any efforts by the Bureau of Motor Vehicles to close a license branch located in Newburgh, saying any move to close the facility will create hardships for thousands of people, particularly senior citizens.

"Newburgh is one of those branches targeted on the new hit list that has been compiled by Gov. Mitch Daniels," Hoy said. "As it becomes more apparent that this administration places a greater emphasis on saving money than providing quality service to the people of Indiana, I feel it is important that the people of this area start speaking out as quickly as they can to stop this closing from taking place."

Newburgh is one of 24 branches across Indiana that BMV Commissioner Joel Silverman has recommended be closed at some point in the near future.

"Frankly, this decision doesn't make a lot of sense," Hoy said. "Around two-thirds of Warrick County's population lives in and around the Newburgh area, and if the town's license branch is closed, people will have to fight the crowds in Evansville or drive 10 to 15 miles to Boonville to conduct their business. Where is the convenience in that kind of move?"

Hoy said that state law requires the BMV conduct a public hearing in each of the counties where a branch is expected to be closed, so area residents will have a chance to speak their minds to the governor's and commissioner's plans to make state government more "efficient." At the same time, Hoy noted that previous hearings in communities where branches were set to be closed did not go well.

"The commissioner did change his mind about some branches, but only in communities represented by Republican leadership in the Indiana Senate," Hoy said. "If that is a new criteria for determining whether branches stay open, then politics are playing a role in these decisions, no matter what the governor might say."

Hoy said closing license branches will not provide updated and more efficient services to the public. Exactly the opposite will be the case, he added.

"You can save money by closing branches, but no one seems to have spent any time trying to figure out how such actions will affect those people who rely upon a branch for needed services," Hoy said. "We will be asking them to take time away from work and their families in order to drive to a license branch and transact business. And how will seniors who do not drive be able to get to a branch and obtain the photo identification that will be required in order to vote in future elections?"

"What we are seeing here takes place when people attempt to operate government as a business," he continued. "You simply cannot look at providing critical government services only from the point of view of profits and losses. You must try to understand how you are affecting people who depend on those services to get through their everyday lives."

"With so many questions out there, I am asking the people of Newburgh to join me in asking the governor and Commissioner Silverman to explain these heavy-handed actions in greater detail," Hoy concluded.

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